(e) if not, when they are likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) There was a target to commission 41 new telephone exchanges in Himachal Pradesh during 1993-94.

(b) 40 new telephone exchanges were commissioned out of this target.

(c) No, Sir. As per policy of Department, new telephone Exchange is planned to be opened at a place when registered paid demand reaches 10 or more and no such demand is existing in these places.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) There is a proposal to set up a new telephone exchange at Gander during 1995-96. This exchange will serve Bardam, Bandahu and Paplah Gram Panchayats. However, some villages of Sakoh Panchayat have already been provided telephone connections from the existing exchange at Alampur.

.. Formation of MTNL for Metro .. Cities

61. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposal to convert the existing telecom circles in metro politan cities such as Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad and Bangalore on the lines of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited soon;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard;

(c) by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken;

(d) whether the MTNL for other metropolitan cities would be formed during the Eighth Plan period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Working of Tac and Pac for Assam Circle

62. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and address of the present members of the Telecom Advisory Committee (TAC) as well as Postal Advisory Committee (PAC) for Assam circle stating the respective interests represented ith the respective telephone numbers provided to them as TAC members alongwith the dates of installation of these telephones;

(b) what is the tenure of the current TAC and PAC as in (a) above;

(c) the details of meeting(s) held so far by the said TAC and PAC, if any, meeting-wise details alongwith the recommendations made by them and those implemented by the Government, member-wise details; and

(d) the details of the amounts of Travelling Allowance and the Daily Allowance paid to each of the said TAC and PAC members so far during their current tenure member-wise details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM: (a) Sir, the required information in respect of the names of Assam Tele phone Advisory ommittee members, the interests they represent and their telephone numbers are given in the enclosed Statement I. (*See below*).

The dates of installation of telephones are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The TAC of Assam State constituted on 01.02.1994 has a tenure upto 31.01.1996. There is no PAC in Assam Circle at present.

(c) The required information is given in the enclosed Statement—II (See below).

(d) The required information is given in the enclosed Statement—III (See below).

Statement-I

List of T.A.C. Members of Assam circle

Names of Members & Addresses	Interest represented	Telephone numbe
1. Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita Member of Parliament, Hangrabari ASHB Housing Complex No. 2, Unit-6, Guwahati	M.P.	RNY—254
2. Shri Balin KuliMember of Parliament Hedayet Pur, Guwahati-I.	M.P.	GH—523703
3. Shri B.K. Handique Member of Parliament Kushal Kenwar Path, Jorhat.	M.P.	JRT—322725
4. Shri Probin Deka Member of Parliament Mangaldai Town, Ward No. 5, P. O. Mangaldai Dist. Darang, Assam	M.P.	GH—545285
5. Shri Radha Krishan Agarwal Advocate, Bignagar, Assam.	Legal Profession	SBS—22120
6. Shri S.P. Deka General Secretary, All Assam Lawyers' Association, Guwahati.	DO.	GH—547129
7. Prof. Tapan Bhattacharjee, S.S. College, P.O. Hailakandi, Assam.	Engineer & Other profession	HLK—22912
8. Shri B.L. Aggarwal, Editor, North East Times Guwahati.	Press	GH—523704
9. Smt. Mridula Saharia, President, Assam Mahila Cong (I), Guwahati.	Public workers & others	GH—561665
10. Shri Mamu Rashid General Secretary, Assam Adventure Foundation, Guwahati.	Do.	GH—543105
11. Shri Mohan Basumatari Ex-MLA, Beltola Road, Guwahati.	Public workers & others	GH—565946
12. Principal (R & D) Sukumar Barua, P.O. Sepekhati, Sonari, Distt. Sibsagar, Assam.	DO.	681 Sepekhati Exchange
13. Mrs. Swarna Prabha Barua Amalapatty, P.O. & Dist. Nagaong, Assam.	DO.	NGG—30402
14. Shri Rajib Barua, Near Wireless Office. Dispur, Guwahati.	DO.	GH—561233
15. Shri Padma Nath Sarma, President Assam Yuvak Assam Malow, Ali, Jorhat, Assam.	DO.	JRT—323772
16. Shri Prodish Kanti Chowdhury Trade Union Leader, Ulubari Guwahati-7.	DO.	GH—543102

	Names of Members & Addresses	Interest represented	Telephone number
17.	Shri Kannath Phukan Salal Gaon, P.O. Poni, Dist. Lakhimpur Assam.	DO.	232– Ponigaon
18.	Shri Swapan Dutta Pallinhuva P.O. & Dist. Tinsukia, Assam.	DO.	GH– 565985
19.	Shri Akon Bora, Tokobari Satra, A.T. Road, Guwahati.	DO.	GH– 564001
20.	Shri Debabrata Saikia Assam Pradesh Youth Cong (I) Sarumotoria, Dispur, Guwahati-6.	DO.	GH– 565955
21.	Mrs. Lily Islam, Hatigarh, Bamunimaidan, (Near Sibamandir), Guwahati-21.	DO.	GH– 562558
22.	Shri Niranjan Ghose, ISAS, Secy. to Govt. of Assam, Dept. of GAD, Personnel Finance, Dispur, Guwahati.	State Govt.	GH : 562837 (0) 561676 (0)

Statement II

One meeting of the Assam circle TAC has so far been held. In that meeting held on 28-6-94, the recommendations made by the members and decision taken thereon are as under:

1. **Shri Prabin Deka,** M.P. (LS) raised the following points:

(i) Unsatisfactory STD service from Udalguri (SDHQ)

(ii) Working of STD PCOs on franchised basis.

(iii) Telephone services in he garden areas were not satisfactory and need improvement.

(iv) Requirement of Telephone Exchange at Dalgaon.

(v) Provision of more staff quarters.

STD at Udalgiri: STD service at Udalgiri is at present available on overhead carrier system. Stable media UHF is planned to be commissioned during 1995-96.

STD PCOs: The functioning of STD PCOs is periodically monitored by the field officers and no specific cases of non-functioning of STD PCO brought to the notice of the circle.

Telephone services in tea gardens: Tea Gardens have been requested to apply for reliable mdia on rent and guarantee basis.

Exchange at Dalgaon: The minimum prescribed registered demand is not available.

Provision of Staff Quarters: The Circle's achievement in this respect is 9 per cent against the departmental standard of 14 per cent. Depending upon the availability of the funds, and etc. quarters were being constructed to meet the requirement.

2. **Shri Ankon Bora** wanted to know as to how many public grievance cells were functioning in the Circle. It was informed that the same were functioning in the offices of CGMT, TDM, Guwahati and in the offices of TDE Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Nagaon; Silchar, Tezpur and Bongaigaon.

3. **Shri S. P. Deka** mentined that franchise STD PCOs were not using proper devices to indicate the number dialed, duration of the Call and not giving proper account of print out forms and also raised the point of setting up of a telecom factory in North-Eastern Circle to meet the requirements of the region. He was

informed that instructions were already existing for the field officers to monitor the performance of STD PCOs and DoT approved equipments were only required to be installed by the franchises in the STD PCOs booths. About setting up of an industry, it was indicated that the same was a State subject.

4. Shri Mohan Baumatary informed that there were abnormal delays in providing new connections, shifting cases after issue of Work Orders and lack of co-ordination between SDO and AE (Cable) about availability of cable pairs. It was indicated that necessary action had been initiated to minimise the delay in the provision of telephone connections. As regards improvement in the functioning of IDPTs and GPPTs in Dhemaji District, it was informed that MARR equipments have been planned for this purpose and are likely to be installed by March, 1995.

5. Shri Prodish Kanti Chowdhury mentioned about unsatisfactory telephone services in Dhubra and installation of MARR system for PCOs. It was indicated that the MAX-II Exchange of Dhubra which was the cause for unsatisfactory service has since been replaced by Electronic exchange leading to satisfactory service and MARR system has been planned.

6. Many members raised the matter of excess of billing. It was suggested that action should be taken to curb excess billing and excess billing complaints should be settled by giving rebate. It was indicated that the excess billing complaints were being settled as per departmental procedure. Wherever found justified rebates were given. It was also informed that wherever dynamic STD facilities were availed by subscriber, there were no excess billing complaints.

7. The following points raised by members in general were discussed as below:—

(i) Waiting list of all exchanges and new Telecom policy should be circulated to all members and it was agreed.

(ii) Non-replacement of MAX-I exchanges at Guwahati and Strowger exchanges at Duliajan, Digby, Kokrajar Namrup and Rangia by electronic exchanges — these exchanges have not outlived their lives and as and when they do so, they would be replaced by electronic exchanges.

(iii) Early restoration of telephone faults in Guwahati — The position of underground cable damages by various agencies was explained to members. To reduce cable legth, it was indicated that more RLUs would be planned.

(iv) The members also requested that (a) free call limit may be raised to 3000, (b) TAC members may be allowed to recommend out-of-turn telephone connections under general category, and (c) Assam circle TAC members may be allowed to recommend out-of-turn telephone connections in Guwahati Telephone District where there is a separate TAC.

These recommendations are not acceptable at present.

Statement-III

Sl.No.	Name of Members	No. of meetings held	T.A. D.A. (Rs.)	
1	2	3	4	5
1	Shri Probin Deka, M.P.		3356	100
2	Smt. Mridula Saharia		254	100

1	2	3	4	5
3	Shri Akon Bora	n	202	..
4	Shri Kannath Phukan	c	712	100
5	Shri P.K. Chowdhary	e	..	50
6	Shri P.M. Sarma		678	100
7	Shri Sukumar Barua	o	746	100
8	Shri Sweper Dutta	n	880	100
9	Shri Rajiv Barua		..	50
10	Md. Mamun Rashid	28-06-94	..	50
11	Shri Mohan Basumatary		309	100
12	Shri S.P. Deka		101	..
			Rs. 7238	50

Complaints for sanction of fake Telephone Connections

63. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1873 given in the Rajya Sabha on 10th August 1993 and state:

(a) what are the results of the investigations conducted by the CBI into the cases registered by them in the light of the complaints of issue of sanction letters for telephone connections on out-of-turn priority received during the year 1991;

(b) what action has been taken against the persons found involved as a result of these investigations; and

(c) how many such complaints were received during the years 1992, 1993 and so far in 1994 and what action has been taken thereon in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The CBI registered 4 cases of fake sanctions on out-of-turn priority quota. Out of these, investigations reports in 3 cases have already been received. Investigations revealed collusion of Government officials and private persons for taking telephone connections against out of turn priority Quota in their favour on the basis of forged sanction orders. On the recommendation of the CBI, it has been declared to take the follwng action:-

1.	Prosecution	10 Officials
2.	Major Penalty Proceedings	9 Officials
3.	Minor Penalty Proceedings	1 Officer
4.	Cautioning	1 Officer
5.	Non-Sensitive Post	3 Officers
6.	Action under consideration	2 Officers